10 p.m. and should not be opened except with the express permission of the House Surgeon who is on duty then;

(b) if so, whether it is in force or whether it is merely a dead letter; and

(c) if it is in force, whether it is strictly observed and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) Yes; but it is the Assistant Surgeon on duty who is the authority to grant permission for opening the gate after 10 p.m. and not the House Surgeon.

(b) It is in force.

(c) The rule is being strictly observed.

Public Health and Sanitation

Progress of the scheme for the supply of drinking water from the Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 191 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme for the drinking water-supply to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir is;

(b) whether orders have been passed for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates in this behalf;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the negative, what the delay is due to;

(d) when the work is expected to be taken up and what the approximate time to complete it will be; and

(e) what amount of grant and what amount as loan do the Government propose to give for this work?

A.—(a) to (e) A reference is being issued to the municipal council asking whether it is prepared to agree to finance the scheme on the basis of a half grant and half loan. No orders have yet been passed for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates as the financing of the scheme has not been finally settled. If the council agrees to the proposals of the Government and if a special establishment is sanctioned, it will take more than a year to complete the preparation of detailed plans and estimates. The execution of the scheme may take six years. If the scheme is finally approved, the Government grant and loan for the work, will each amount to Rs. 11 lakhs.

Supply of drinking water from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 192 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the scheme to supply drinking water to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir is;

(b) whether the scheme has been sanctioned and plans and estimates have been called for; and